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Allowable Cover On Corrugated Steel Pipe

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Tests of riveted and bolted pipe seam strengths were made and compared with tests made by others. The seam strengths of spot welded and helically corrugated pipes were assumed to be equal to that of riveted pipe. This has been confirmed by tests made by Ohio State University, Building Research Laboratory, Report EES-236.

Using these seam strengths, tables were computed for various types of pipe and pipe arches showing maximum heights of cover for combinations of pipe diameters with gages of steel used in their fabrication. Ring compression theory was used in the calculations of allowable cover, the heights were checked to assure that allowable deflections were not exceeded, and the tables were limited by the application of flexibility factors.

The tables of maximum cover were compatible with recent experience in California, and were adopted for inclusion in the California Division of Highways Planning Manual.

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HIGHWAY RESEARCH REPORT

ALLOWABLE COVER ON CORRUGATED STEEL PIPE

FINAL REPORT

State of California Transportation Agency Department of Public Works Division of Highways

Design Department Kenneth M. Fenwick Principal Investigator

Research Report HPR-PR-1(6) D-4-5

In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Public Roads

February 1969

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project was performed in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Public Roads, under Agreement No. D-4-5.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those held by the Bureau of Public Roads.

The project was conducted with the coordinated efforts of several departments of the California Division of Highways as follows: Materials and Research Department (testing), Bridge Department (structural analysis) and Design Department (review and implementation). Mr. E. F. Nordlin of Materials and Research directed the testing program; Mr. A. E. Bacher and Mr. F. G. Gillenwaters of the Bridge Department made the structural analysis. The Design Department established certain design limitations other than structural and prepared departmental instructions. The study was conducted in coordination with representatives of the corrugated metal pipe industry.

Acknowledgment is made to the California Corrugated Pipe Association for their cooperation and for technical information which was necessary for the completion of this study.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this research project was to develop tables of allowable height of cover for various sizes of prefabricated corrugated steel pipe, pipe arches and field assembled corrugated steel structural plate pipe and pipe arches.

Tests of riveted and bolted pipe seam strengths were made and compared with tests made by others. The seam strengths of spot welded and helically corrugated pipes were assumed to be equal to that of riveted pipe. This has been confirmed by tests made by Ohio State University, Building Research Laboratory, Report EES-236.

Using these seam strengths, tables were computed for various types of pipe and pipe arches showing maximum heights of cover for combinations of pipe diameters with gages of steel used in their fabrication. Ring compression theory was used in the calculations of allowable cover, the heights were checked to assure that allowable deflections were not exceeded, and the tables were limited by the application of flexibility factors.

The tables of maximum cover were compatible with recent experience in California, and were adopted for inclusion in the California Division of Highways Planning Manual.

INTRODUCTION

Prior to 1963 the California Division of Highways based the allowable cover on corrugated metal pipe and structural steel pipes on empirical tables. The expanded highway programs for high speed, high standard roads in mountainous terrain have greatly increased the grading quantities. The consequent increase in fill heights focused attention on the need for a critical reexamination of culvert design. This research project covers the examination of the structural design of corrugated steel pipes. The objective of the study was to determine allowable heights of cover for prefabricated CMP and bolted structural plate pipe.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The determination of design values for the metal used in the fabrication of corrugated metal pipes and pipe arches and the confirmation of seam strength by testing are primary considerations in determining the allowable cover for any gage-diameter relationship. It is necessary to specify minimum mechanical properties for the metal used in flexible culverts.
- 2. The use of ring compression theory, when limited by deflection and flexibility factor calculations, will provide a reasonable approximation for determining allowable cover over corrugated metal culverts. Methods adopted as a result of this study can be applied to all flexible steel culverts regardless of diameter, corrugation, configuration or method of fabrication.
- 3. Previously used empirical tables should be replaced by revised tables based on recommended values of allowable cover detailed in this report.
- 4. It should be noted that this report is concerned with structural adequacy only. No allowances were made or factors provided for determining heavier gages that would be required by corrosive or abrasive site conditions.

PROJECT ANALYSIS AND PROCEDURES

I General

The computation of allowable heights of cover was based on determination of seam strengths, application of ring compression theory, checking for allowable deflection, and limiting the tables to size and gage combinations that met criteria for handling and installation rigidity as defined by the flexibility factor.

Because of variables in pipe manufacture, loading stresses caused by various placement procedures, and varying site conditions, a safety factor of four was used in the ring compression calculations. A safety factor of four also was used in the deflection calculations and there is sound basis for this value. Flexible conduits fail by excessive deformation and reach that state at a deflection of approximately 20% of the initial diameter. A maximum limiting deflection of 5% is recommended by Spangler and the American Iron and Steel Institute which is one-fourth the allowable deflection.

For the scope of this study, the phrase "metal pipe" refers to steel pipes only.

For dead load, a weight of earth of 100 pounds per cubic foot was used for comparison with data submitted by the California Corrugated Metal Pipe Association although AASHO allows 84 pounds per cubic foot. The American Iron and Steel Institute handbook uses 100 pounds per cubic foot for computing dead load.

Live loads were not used in the computations as they would be negligible when considering maximum heights of cover.

II Seam Strength

California Division of Highways Standard Specifications allow fabrication of corrugated metal pipe with riveting, resistance spot welding, helical continuous lock seams or helical continuous welded seams. The riveted seam was the original method of manufacture, and all subsequent methods of fabrication have been required to meet riveted seam strengths as the controlling value. The computation of the cover height tables was based on riveted seam strength with corrugations normal to the pipe axis.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give the pertinent seam strength data that were available from the sources listed in the column headings. In each Table, the value in the column marked with an asterisk were used in the computation of the allowable height of cover in Tables 4 to 9 inclusive.

TABLE 1

ULTIMATE SEAM STRENGTH

2-2/3" x 1/2" Corrugations

Kips per foot of seam - average values

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,			
Gage	Riv	vets	Division M. & R. Tests	* Calif. C.M.P. Assoc.	Pittsburgh Testing Lab.	Armco Handbook
16	5/16"	Single	11.0	12.4	16.9	8.0
14	5/16"	Single	7	16.5		
12	3/8"	Single		24.6	·	
10	3/8"	Single	20.1	30.6	30.2	30.0
8	3/8"	Single		37.0x		
16	5/16"	Double	24.0	27.8	34.1	18.0
14	5/16"	Double		30.2		
12	3/8"	Double		49.9		
10	3/8"	Double	43.6	53.0	64.0	56.0
8	3/8"	Double		56.0x		

^{*} These values used in computing the tables.

 $[\]boldsymbol{x}$ No valid test results available. Figures shown were extrapolated.

TABLE 2

ULTIMATE SEAM STRENGTH
3" x 1" Corrugations

Kips per foot of seam - average values

Gage	Rivets	Hales Testing Lab.	Calif. C.M.P. Assoc.	Pittsburgh Testing Lab. (8½" bolts)	* Townsend's Theoret. Values
16	3/8" Double	27.5	28.0	32.0	25.8
14	3/8" Double			36.8	34.3
. 12	7/16" Double	•		63.6	53.0
10	7/16" Double			92.6	61.0
. 8	7/16" Double			116.7	64.0

^{*}These values used in computing the tables.

TABLE 3

ULTIMATE SEAM STRENGTH

6" x 2" Corrugations

Kips per foot of seam - average values

Gage	Bolts	Pittsburgh Testing Lab.	* Armco Handbook	Calif. C.M.P. Assoc.
12	4-bolt	47.3	42.0	43.0
10	4-bolt		62.0	
8	4-bolt	90.4	81.0	81.0
7	4-bolt	·	93.0	
5	4-bolt		112.0	
3	4-bolt	140.2	132.0	132.0
1	4-bolt		144.0	
1	6-bolt		184.0	

^{*} These values used in computing the tables.

From supplemental data available, it appeared that part of the variation in seam strengths reported was due to variation in strength of the base metal. To make maximum height of cover tables valid, it is necessary to specify minimum strengths for the steel used in fabrication.

Materials are required to conform to AASHO Designation: M36 for corrugated metal pipe and AASHO Designation: M167 for structural plate pipe. Under these specifications, steels as weak as 40,000 psi ultimate tensile strength could be furnished. To supplement these requirements the California Standard Specifications specify the following mechanical requirements:

		CMP	SSP	
Tensile Strength, psi Yield Point, psi Elongation in 2 inches,	percent	45,000 33,000 20	42,000 28,000 30	

These requirements apply to flat sheets prior to corrugation.

The seam strengths chosen for the calculation of maximum heights of cover in Tables 4 to 9 are consistent with the above specifications.

III Soil Support

The support strength of the soil should be established. This has been the indeterminate factor in design. The level of support capacity is determined by soil structure and compaction. Soils which are granular and easily compacted have excellent support strength levels. Soils which are heavy in clay or silt content are low in support strength and difficult to compact. Significant movement under load may be anticipated for these poor structural soils. Design must be based upon presumed levels of compaction. The State of California specifies 95% compaction of the backfill material surrounding the culvert. The exact level of support resistance, a combination of support strength of soil and degree of compaction, can only be approximated. Because of this limitation each theory can only be an approximation. Unfortunately, the problem of approximation is compounded, as a small change in external pressure distribution produces large changes in analytical results.

This inability to predict definite values of soil support emphasizes the necessity for using a large safety factor in computing maximum heights of cover.

IV Ring Compression Computations

The theory of the metal conduit as a compression ring was developed by H. L. White and J. P. Layer and appeared under the title, "The Corrugated Metal Conduit As A Compression Ring" in Highway Research Board Proceedings, 1960.

This approach presumes good compacted soil developing a uniform pressure around the periphery of the culvert, and assumes the soil to be inelastic so that any shape will be rigidly maintained. With this assumption of soil behavior, it can be shown that the culvert will act as a ring in compression. The value of this approach is only as good as the assumption of uniform radial pressure from the soil. With 95% minimum relative compaction specified and a safety factor used in the calculations, it is considered valid for the first step computations of maximum heights of cover.

For ring compression, the load is based on the weight of the soil acting vertically and uniformly across a plane at the top of the culvert.

Thus $P = H \times W$

where $P = Unit load, lb/ft.^2$

H = Height of cover, feet
w = Density of soil, lb/ft.3

= 100 pcf for calculation of tables

Ring compression is:

$$C = \underbrace{P \times S \times SF}_{2}$$

where C = Seam strength, lb/ft.

S = Span or diameter, feet

SF = Safety factor

= 4 for calculation of tables

Combining and solving for H

$$H = \frac{2C}{w \times S \times SF}$$

Example: A structural plate pipe 18 feet in diameter, 10 gage, seam strength 62,000 pounds per foot from Table 3, weight of soil 100 pounds per cubic foot and safety factor of 4.

$$H = 2 \times 62,000$$

 $100 \times 18 \times 4$

= 17.2 say 18 feet

Deflection Calculations

Another design approach is the deflection analysis by Spangler which was published under the title, "Analysis of Loads and Supporting Strengths, and Principles of Design for Highway Culverts," Prof. M. G. Spangler, in Highway Research Board proceedings, 1946. He used loadings described in "The Theory of External Loads on Closed Conduits in the Light of the Latest Experiments," Anson Marston, Iowa State College Bulletin 96, 1930.

Spangler's method considers uniform pressure across the plane at the top of the culvert, uniform pressure resistance across the plane at the invert, and horizontal side pressures as a function of lateral displacement. When these loads are applied to the ring and solved for deflection, the equation is:

$$d = D_1 K W_c r^3$$

 $EI + 0.061 E' r^3$

where d = Deflection of the culvert under load, in.
D₁ = Deflection lag factor
 K = Bedding constant
W_c = Load on the culvert, lb/lin. in
 r = Radius of the culvert, in.

E = Modulus of elasticity of the metal, lb/in.²
I = Moment of inertia of the culvert wall, in⁴/in.

E'= Horizontal soil modulus, lb/in.2

As previously stated, deflection under load was limited to 5% of the initial diameter of the culvert.

The load $W_{_{\mathbf{C}}}$ in the above formula was determined by Marston's equation:

$$W_{c} = \frac{C_{c} W B^{2}}{12}$$

 C_c = Factor based on $\frac{H}{B_c}$ and

obtained from a chart of Marston's equations

w = Density of soil, 1b/ft.³
B_c = Span of culvert, feet
H = Height of cover, feet

Example: Using the same example of a structural plate pipe 18 feet in diameter and weight of soil 100 pounds per cubic foot.

$$\frac{H}{B_c}$$
 = 1.0 and C_c = 0.9 from chart of Marston's equations, based on a settlement ratio of - 0.3, positive projection conduit.

$$W_{c} = \frac{C_{c} \times B^{2}}{12}$$

$$= 0.9 \times 100 \times 18^{2}$$

= 2430 lb/lin. in.

Using $D_1 = 1.25$, K = 0.10, $E = 30 \times 10^6 \text{ lb/in.}^2$, $I = 0.0782 \text{ in}^4/\text{in.}$ and $E' = 700 \text{ lb/in.}^2$

$$d = D_1 \times W_c r^3$$

$$= 1.25 \times 0.10 \times 2430 \times (9 \times 12)^3$$

$$= 0.9 \text{ in.}$$

Since the allowable deflection is 5% of the initial diameter, $d = 0.05 \times 216 = 10.8$ in. and the computed deflection is within safe limits.

Charts 1 through 4 show comparisons of allowable fill heights determined by ring compression theory versus Spangler's deflection analysis.

It can be seen that ring compression values are more conservative than Spangler's values when the horizontal soil modulus (E') is $1400 \, \mathrm{lb/in.^2}$, and in most cases when E' = $700 \, \mathrm{lb/in.^2}$

Since the value 1400 lb/in. 2 approximates backfill with 95% relative compaction and 700 lb/in. 2 represents 85% compaction, it is apparent that the ring compression values are conservative in all cases.

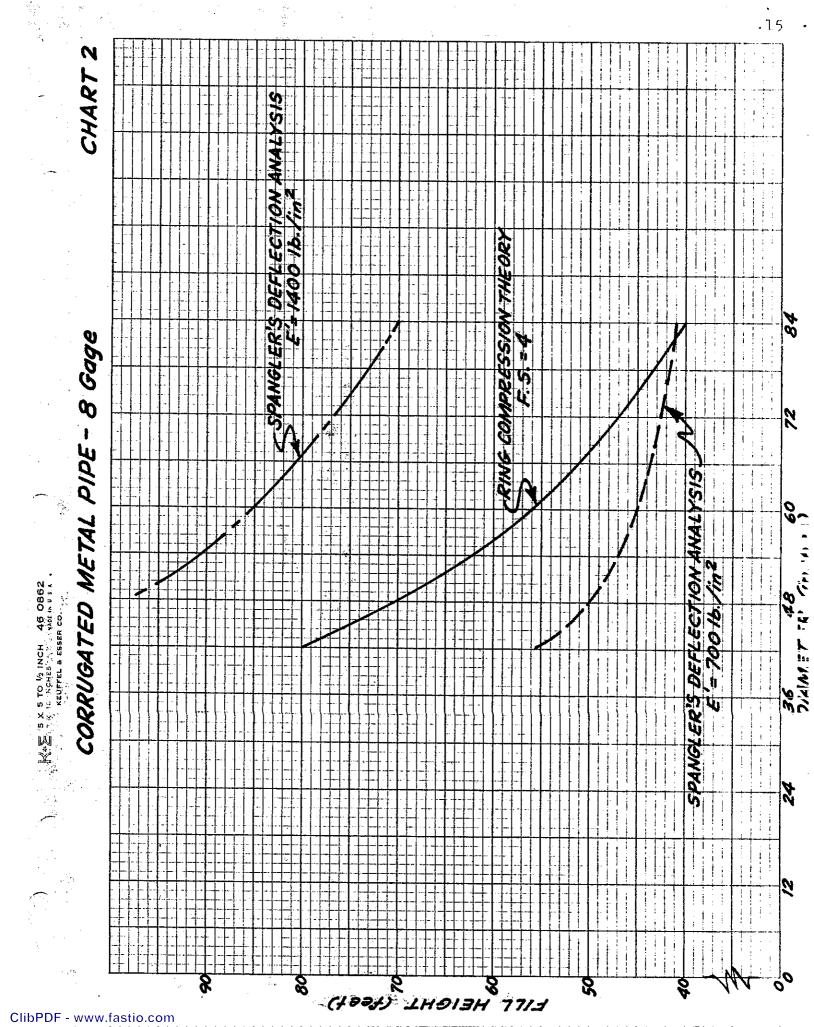
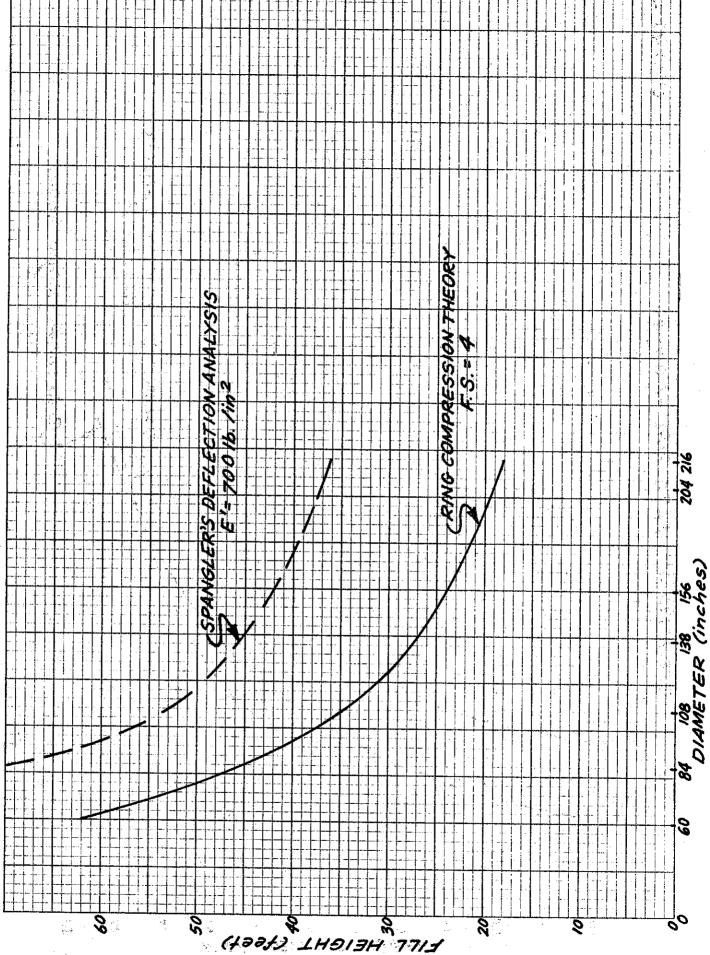


CHART 3 STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE - 10 Gage

K+∑ S X 5 TO 1/2 INCH 46 O862 x 10 INCHES HADE IN U.S. A. KEUFFEL & ESSER CO.



i7 CHART 4 KO SPANGLER'S DEFLECTION ANALYSIS O SPANGLER'S DEFLECTION ANALYSIS RING COMPRESSION THEORY STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE -1 Gage 252 DIAMETER (inches) 84 8 ETT HEIGHL (4**33**4)

KES X S TO MINCH 46 0862

VI Flexibility Factor Computations

Flexibility factors are indicators of rigidity of flexible conduits, and they are used to determine if various diameter and gage combinations will maintain their shape satis-factorily during transporting, handling and installation. The flexibility factor is directly proportional to the square of the diameter and inversely proportional to the product of the modulus of elasticity of the metal and the moment of inertia of the cross section of the pipe wall.

The formula is expressed as follows:

$$FF = D^2$$

Where FF = Flexibility Factor
D = Diameter of pipe, in.
E = Modulus of elasticity, lb/in.
I = Moment of inertia, in4/in.

Maximum values of these factors have been established by the industry based on experience. The maximum flexibility factors used were as follows:

For
$$2=2/3$$
" x $1/2$ " corrugation FF = 0.0433
3" x 1" corrugation = 0.0333
6" x 2" corrugation = 0.0200

The factor 0.0333 for 3 " x 1" corrugations was established by interpolating between the flexibility factors for 2-2/3" x 1/2" corrugations and 6" x 2" corrugations. The moments of inertia of the various corrugation patterns were used as the basis of interpolation.

Flexibility factors were computed to determine the largest pipe diameter allowed for each diameter and gage relationship. In the computations for pipe arches, the span was used in computing the flexibility factors. The attached tables were limited in scope by the application of these factors:

Example: Same structural plate pipe 18 feet in diameter, 10 gage, E=30,000,000 lb/in.², I=0.0782 in⁴/in. from AISI Handbook.

$$FF = \frac{(18 \times 12)^2}{30 \times 10^6 \times 0.0782} = 0.0199$$

The 18-foot diameter, 10 gage combination was included in Table 8 as it does not exceed the 0.0200 maximum allowable value.

VII Tables of Maximum Height of Cover

Tables 4 through 9 tabulate the results of this investigation showing maximum height of cover allowable for various corrugated metal pipes, pipe arches, structural plate pipes and structural plate pipe arches.

The use of these tables is contingent on the use of conduits that meet the specifications discussed under II Seam Strength. It presupposes that the backfill will have a minimum relative compaction of 95% as required by the Standard Specifications of the California Division of Highways. Shaped bedding is required by Standard Plans for pipes 42 inches in diameter and less than 72 inches in diameter with 50 feet or more depth of cover, and for all pipes 72 inches in diameter and over with any depth of cover.

No allowance was made for corrosive or abrasive site conditions. When heavier gage metal is specified to counteract these conditions, no increase in height of cover should be allowed.

The columns in the tables noted "Present Design Planning Manual" give values of maximum allowable height of cover that are compatible with recent experience in California, and as noted, were adopted for use by the Division of Highways.

TABLE 4

Maximum Height of Cover for Circular Steel Pipe
With 2-2/3" x 1/2" Corrugations

			·····		Мах	imun	n hei	ght c	of co	ver	(feet	;)			
		5	/16"	Riv	ets					3/8	r Riv	rets			
Dia. Inches	1	6 ga	ge	14	gage		12	gage		10	gage		.8	gag	e
	A	В	C	A	В	С	Α	В	С	A	. В	C	A	В	С
				·	S	INGI	E RI	VETEL	;)						
15	60 50 40 35	82 65 55 41 38	63 50 42 36 32 25 21	100 70 60 50 45 30	109 88 73 62 54 44 36	83 66 55 42 328	100 100 80 70 45 30	109 93 82 65 54	84 72 61 49 41	100 70 45	102 81 68	75 60 50	100 100	81 68	74 62
					D	OUBI	E RIVETED								
42 48 54 66 78 84		53 46 41 37 34 32 26	40 35		57 50 44 40 37 34 29	43 38 34	25 25 20	94 82 73 66 55 47	72 63 56 50 46	35 35 35 25 20 15	100 88 78 70 65 58 50	76 67 59 53 49 40	100 100 80 40 30 30 20	100 88 78 70 65 58 50	70 63 56 51 47

Col. "A" - Old Design Planning Manual (Empirical)

Col. "B" - Calif. CMP Ass'n. (Safety Factor = 3)

Col. "C" - Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor = 4)

TABLE 5

Maximum Height of Cover for Circular Steel Pipe
With 3" x 1" Corrugations

	Maximum height of cover (feet)								
	Double 3,	/8" rivets	Dou	ble 7/16" rive	ts				
Dia. Inches	16 gage	14 gage	l2 gage	10 gage	8 gage				
	A B	A B	A B	A B	A B				
36 48 48 560 66 77 84 99 108 1120	43 37 32 32 29 29 26 23 24 22 20 19 18 17	57 49 43 35 31 28 31 28 29 26 22 21 22 21 19 18 17 16	88 76 66 59 52 47 43 44 41 37 35 32 33 30 29 27 26	87 76 62 68 55 50 56 46 51 42 40 43 37 41 35 32 31 32 31 32 37 32 31 32 32 31 32 37 30	92 80 71 55 64 58 46 53 49 40 37 46 37 43 35 32 31 36 32 37 36 32 37 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32				

Col. "A" - Calif. CMP Ass'n. (Safety Factor = 4)

Col. "B" - Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor = 4)

TABLE 6

Maximum Height of Cover for Steel Pipe-Arches
With 2-2/3" x 1/2" Corrugations

		Maximum height of cover (feet)							
Span-rise	Corner radius	5/16"	rivets	3/8" rivets					
inches	inches	16 gage	14 gage	12 gage	10 gage				
		SINGL	E RIVETED						
18 x 11 22 x 13 25 x 16 29 x 18	374 4 4 4	12 11 10 9	9						
36 x 22 43 x 27	5 5½	8 8	8						
* 11		DOUBL	E RIVETED						
50 x 31 58 x 36	6 7	7 7	7 7	7 7	7				
65 x 40 72 x 44	8 9			7 7	7 7				

Cover limited by corner soil pressures of $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per square foot. Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor = 4)

TABLE 7

Maximum Height of Cover for Steel Pipe-Arches
With 3" x 1" Corrugations

	e entre un	Maximum height of cover (feet)						
	Corner	Double 3/	8" rivets	Double	7/16" riv	vets		
Span-rise inches	radius inches	16 gage	14 gage	12 gage	10 gage	8 gage		
43 x 27 65 x 40 72 x 46 73 x 55 81 x 59 103 x 71 128 x 83	7-3/4 12 14 18 18 18	11 11 12 15	11 11 12 15 13	11 12 15 13 10	11 12 15 13 10 8	13 10 8		

Cover limited by corner soil pressures of $l\frac{1}{2}$ tons per square foot Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor = 4)

TABLE 8 Maximum Height of Cover for Structural Steel Plate Circular Pipe With 6" x 2" Corrugations

		Maximum height of cover (feet)							
,			7-7	4-bolt sea	ms			6-bolt seams	
Dia. Inches	12 gage	10 gage	8 gage	7 gage	5 gage	3 gage	l gage	l gage	
70	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	
60 66 72 78 84 90 102 108 1120 132 138 140 156 168 174 180 180 198 2010 216 228 234 246 252	19 15	60 82 572 48 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 45 33 33 30 8 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 2	30 41 31 25 40 30 25 38 29 25 37 28	80 124 9358 776668551976628 7766655554453333333333333333333333333333	100 135 109 870 66396 109 870 66396 109 987 766396 109 987 766396 109 987 718 555 109 987 718 718 718 718 718 718 718 718 718 7	176 160 160 160 160 146 135 135 125 188 125 160 103 103 110 103 103 103 103 103 103 10	192 174 100 160 90 147 90 137 8 96 120 985 70 101 96 80 120 91 666 80 101 99 87 70 106 60 87 77 71 666 4 44 40 48 44 45 49 46 55 55 50 45 45 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 4	98 98 84 92 88 80 77 74 68 66 64 62 63 55 55 55 55 44 45 44	

Col. "A" - Old Design Planning Manual (Empirical)
Col. "B" - Calif. CMP Ass'n. (Safety Factor = 3)
Col. "C" - Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor - 4)

TABLE 9

Maximum Height of Cover for Structural Steel Plate Pipe-Arches With 6" x 2" Corrugations

		Maximum height of cover - (feet)							
		1불	r sói tons are f	per	ring] 3	r soi tons luare	per	ring
Span	Rise	12 gage	10 gage	8 gage	7 gage	12 gage	10 gage	8 gage	7 gage
				18"	CORNE	R RAI	IUS		
12'-10" 14'- 1" 15'- 4" 15'-10"	5'- 1" 5'- 7" 6'- 1" 6'- 7" 7'- 1" 8'- 4"	15 13 12 10 98 88 7				30 26 24 20 18 16 16 16 14			
				31"	CORNE	R RAI	ius		
14' - 2" 15' - 4" 16' - 3" 17' - 2" 18' - 1" 19' - 3" 19' -11"	9'- 4" 9'-10" 10'- 4" 10'-10" 11'- 4" 11'-10" 12'- 4" 12'-10" 13'- 2"	11 11 10	9	8 8 7	7		22 22 20 18 18	16 16 14	14

Present Design Planning Manual (Safety Factor = 4)